



**USS OLYMPIA (C-6)** Ref: <http://www.spanamwar.com/olympia.htm>

**Classification:** Protected Cruiser C-6 "Olympia" Class (no sisterships)  
**Keel Laid:** June 17, 1891  
**Completed:** April 1, 1893  
**Comissioned:** February 5, 1895  
**Rig:** Two military masts, with schooner rig.  
**Armament:**

Four 8 inch Mark III guns in two turrets (two guns forward, two aft), which fired a 250 lb projectile, with a 105 to 115 pound brown powder service charge and a muzzle velocity of 2080 feet per second. The two main gun turrets, forward and aft, could rotate 137 degrees. The turret guns could be elevated 15 degrees. Each gun weighed approximately 31 tons.

Ten 5 inch Mark II guns, firing a 50 pound projectile with a 28 to 30 lb. brown powder service charge and a muzzle velocity of 2,250 feet per second

**Armament:** Fourteen 6-pounders  
 Six 1-pounders  
 Two Colt machine guns  
 One field piece (for landing parties)  
 Six 18" Whitehead above-surface torpedo tubes

**Contractor:** Union Iron Works, San Francisco, CA

**Length:** 344 feet, 1 inch

**Beam:** 53 feet

**Mean draft:** 21 feet, 6 inches

**Max. draft fully loaded:** 24 feet, 9-3/4 inches

**Displacement:** 5,870 tons

**Complement:** 33 officers and 378 enlisted men Commanded by Captain. Charles V. Gridley to May 25, 1898 when Captain. B. P. Lamberton assumed command.

**Engine type:** Vertical triple expansion engines, generating 17,313 hp.,

**Boiler type:** Four double-ended and two single ended cylindrical boilers.

**Speed:** 21.7 knots

**Coal bunker capacity:** 1,085.6 tons

**Normal coal supply:** 400 tons

**Endurance @ 10 knots:** 6,105 nautical miles

**Armor:** Protective deck (interior of hull at approximate level of waterline) was 2 " thick on the flat, and 4 3/4" on the sloped portion. Additional armor was provided through the use of cellulose-packed cofferdams built inside the hull, above the waterline. Coal bunkers were strategically placed around the perimeter to act as additional armor to protect the vitals of the ship, such as the magazines, boilers and engine rooms.

**Cost:** \$1,796,000

### GENERAL:

The USS OLYMPIA was the flagship of the Asiatic Squadron. It is the only naval vessel from the American Spanish-American War fleet still in existence. OLYMPIA is one of the most significant vessels in United States history as she was the flagship of Commodore Dewey in his victory over Admiral Montojo's Spanish Squadron at Manila Bay. The United States took a large step towards becoming a world power with his victory.